

the guardian weekly

November 2012

Level » Advanced

Style » Individual or group activities



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: Advanced and Lower Intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly/. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Nepal routes tourist trail through former combat zones



Front line ... Nepalese soldiers patrol during the civil war Gurinder Osan/AP

Before reading

1 The article is about Nepal. Work in groups. Note down information about the country under the following headings.

- location, bordering countries and capital city
- official language and national flag
- geography and significant places
- reason for 500,000 overseas tourists every year

2 Vocabulary from the article. Match the adjectives and nouns which you think might appear together. What do you think happened in Nepal?

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> civil | 1 guerrillas |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> Maoist | 2 deal |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> government | 3 war |
| d <input type="checkbox"/> peace | 4 forces |

3 Look at the headline, photo and caption of the article. Answer the questions.

- a What is the Nepalese government planning to create? Where will it be?
- b Looking at the photo, how serious do you think the previous conflict was?

the guardian weekly

November 2012

Article

Nepal routes tourist trail through former combat zones

- 1 It is a very political itinerary for a Himalayan trek. Along with vistas over serried peaks and the opportunity to be photographed astride a yak, it includes visits to former combat zones and secluded valleys that just a decade ago were a “liberated zone” held by Maoist guerrillas.
- 2 A new trekking route in Nepal will take walkers on a three-week trip through the heartland of the country’s 10-year civil war, which ended in 2006 and pitted government forces against Maoist rebels. The region was also home to many of the top Maoist commanders.
- 3 The scheme is backed by former prime minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, himself a Maoist leader.
- 4 “Memorials are built in any country after major revolutions and [the] guerrilla trail is a memorial of the war we have fought,” Dahal told reporters.
- 5 “We fought the war and this will help us to be a record for ourselves,” Lokendra Bahadur Bista Magar, a former minister and rebel, told the media at a press conference last month.
- 6 More than 16,000 people were killed and tens of thousands forced to take refuge in cities or in neighbouring India during the war. The conflict also severely damaged the economy of the impoverished kingdom, which depends heavily on aid and tourism.
- 7 Following a peace deal in 2006, the Maoists became the largest party in Nepal after the constituent assembly election in 2008 and have since led the government twice. However, serious political instability has persisted along with severe economic problems.
- 8 One aim of the new scheme is to diversify tourism in Nepal. Foreign visitors bring much-needed hard

currency into the poor south-Asian nation. But tourist destinations such as the valleys around the massifs of Everest and Annapurna are getting overcrowded and, in some places, filthy.

- 9 Surendra Rana, a Nepali researcher, said the trek could benefit marginalised communities from which most of the guerrillas were recruited at the initial stage of war.
- 10 “People in the area might have felt isolated from the state and as a result they took part in the civil war,” Rana said. “Trekkers and trekking can help them engage with the global community.”

Ishwar Rauniyar Kathmandu

Glossary

route (verb) to send or divert something in a specific direction

serried (adjective) standing closely together in rows or lines

astride (preposition) with one leg on each side of something

back (verb) to give help or support to something

massif (noun) a group of mountains which form a large mass

the guardian weekly

November 2012

While reading

1 Read the article. Write yes [Y], no [N] or not mentioned in the text [NM] next to the statements.

The new tourist trail:

- a will take visitors to areas now held by guerrillas.
- b will be done on foot.
- c is being organised by Nepalese soldiers.
- d will act as a type of war memorial.
- e was presented to the media last month by the prime minister.
- f may help to move tourism away from overcrowded areas.
- g will begin early next year.
- h could stop some communities feeling isolated.

2 Read the article again. Make notes about the civil war in Nepal under the following headings.

- Length of war

- Year finished

- Two sides

- Number of victims

- Effect on local populations

- Effect on economy

- Ongoing effects

3 Complete the sentences below and compare your ideas with a partner. Refer back to the text where appropriate.

a I think that the new tourist trail is/isn't a good idea because ...

b People living in the tourist trail areas will/won't benefit because ...

c I would/wouldn't be interested in going on the tourist trail because ...

After reading

1 Prefixes and suffixes

Look at these words from the article. What meaning does the prefix or suffix (in bold) add to the words?

a **impoverished** (paragraph 6)

b **political** (paragraph 7)

c **instability** (paragraph 7)

the guardian weekly

November 2012

d diversify (paragraph 8)

e overcrowded (paragraph 8)

f marginalised (paragraph 9)

Can you think of other words which have these prefixes or suffixes used in a similar way?

2 Underline all the vocabulary in the article relating to civil war. Draw a word map with the title "civil war" at the centre with four lines coming off it labelled:

people, places, verbs, events or situations (see below). Write the vocabulary in the correct places.

For example:

People: soldiers

Places: combat zone

Verbs: patrol

Events or situations: conflict

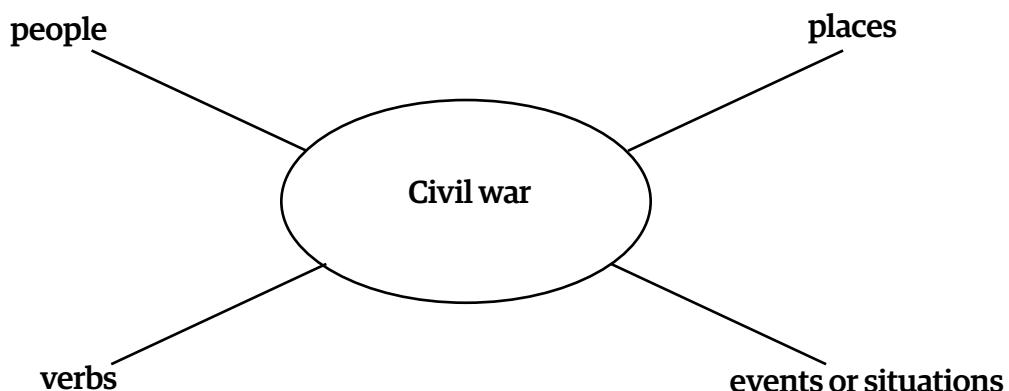
Work as a class. Add more words that you have heard about in the news relating to civil war. For example:

people: insurgents

places: battle zone

verbs: launch an offensive

events or situations: skirmish.



Answers

Before reading

1 Location: South Asia, bordering; countries: India, Tibet/China Capital city: Kathmandu; official language: Nepali; flag: the red, white and blue flag is the only one in the world that isn't square or rectangular; geography: very mountainous in the north, which has eight of the world's 10 tallest mountains. Nepal is the birthplace of Buddha (about 2,600 years ago), founder of Buddhism. Tourists: Many visit for trekking, climbing Everest or Annapurna. Others come to visit religious sites.

2 a3 b1 c4 d2

While reading

1 aN bY cNM dY eN fY gNM hY

2 10 years, 2006, Maoist rebels and government forces, 16,000 people, tens

of thousands forced to take refuge in cities and India, it severely damaged the economy, political instability and severe economic problems.

After reading

1 **a im-** means to put into the condition mentioned eg imperil, imprison **b -al** means related to or being of eg environmental, national **c in-** means "not" or the opposite of eg inconvenience, invisibility **d -ify** means to make or become eg purify, clarify **e over-** means too much eg overpopulated, overqualified **f -ise** means to become or make like eg Americanise, privatiser

2 **People:** government forces, rebels, commanders, leader, guerrillas. **Places:** front line, liberated zone, heartland. **Verbs:** to pit one side against another, to back, to fight, to take refuge, to recruit. **Events or situations:** peace deal, political instability, major revolution.